

AKIRA

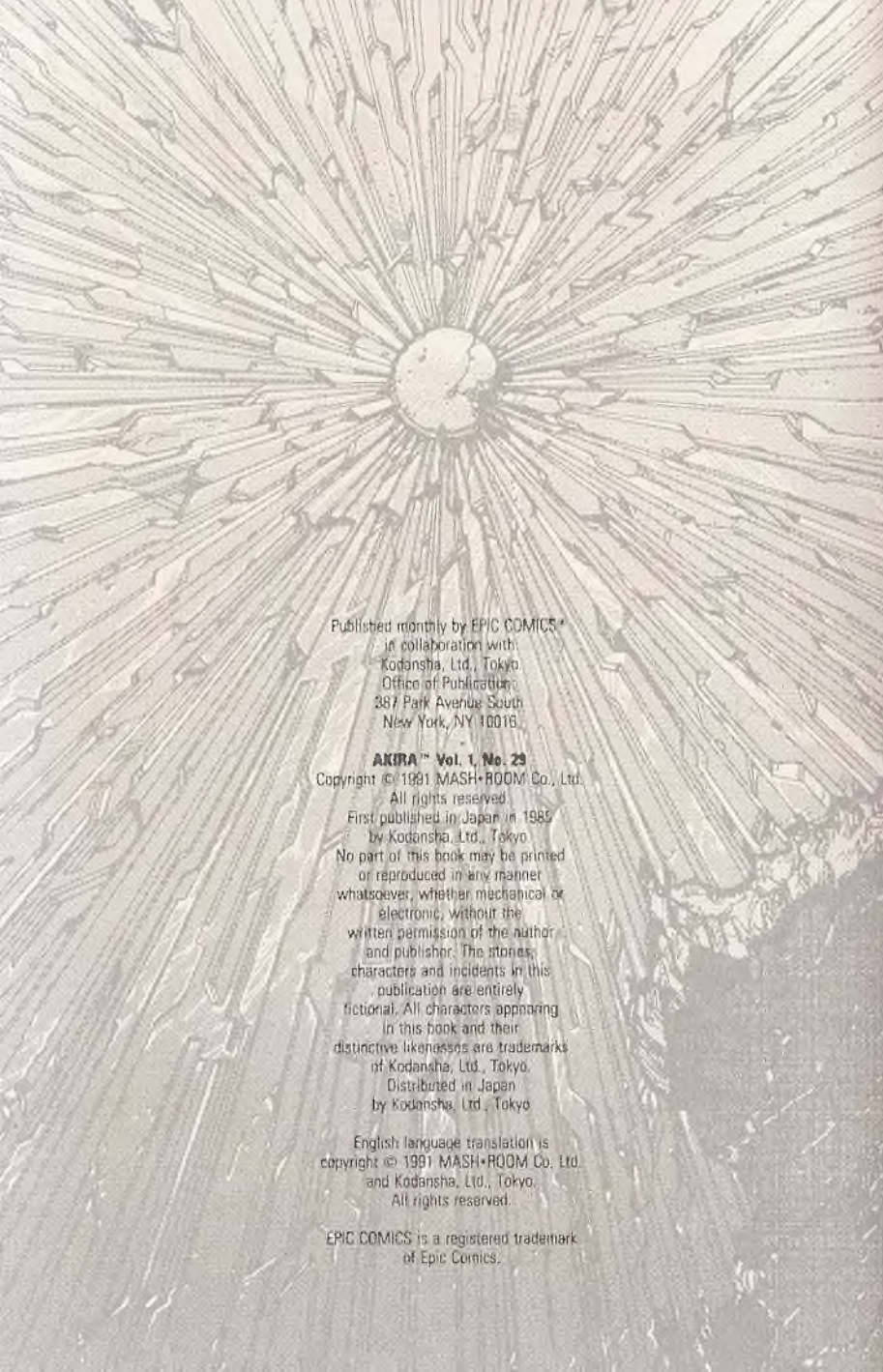
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AKIRA

BY KATSUHIRO OTOMO

Chapter 29

RIDE TO REVENGE

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE



2030. The world hovers on the brink of World War IV. **Kaneda**, once leader of a delinquent gang, is caught up in the aftermath of a power struggle between a Japanese military research organization—led by a man known only as the Colonel—and a resistance group whose members include **Kay**, **Ryu**, and a formidable woman named **Chiyoiko**.

The **Colonel** has a number of psychic children under his control. Each is identified by a number marked on the hand. Among them are **Kiyoko** and **Masaru**—Numbers 25 and 27. The blind **Lady Miyako**—Number 19—was once among their ranks but now heads a great religious cult. Number 41 is **Tetsuo**, once Kaneda's friend but now his greatest enemy. **Tetsuo** lost an arm to a laser blast from the Colonel's military satellite SOL and has used cybernetics and telekinesis to fabricate for himself a prosthetic left arm.

Most powerful of all the children is Number 28—**Akira**—a docile and enigmatic boy who was placed in a cryogenic sleep almost forty years ago, after he started the Third World War with a mental blast. He was recently reawakened by the jealous and ambitious **Tetsuo**. Shortly thereafter, he responded to emotional trauma by again devastating the reconstructed city of Neo-Tokyo. Japan now exists in a state of emergency. The forces of the army and the resistance are scattered and the military's formidable "caretaker robots" patrol the streets.

In the western part of Neo-Tokyo, the **Great**



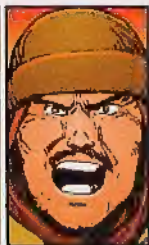
Tetsuo



Kiyoko



Akira



The Colonel



Tokyo Empire is formed — a monarchy with **Akira** on the throne and **Tetsuo** as his prime minister. Together the pair use their powers, healing the sick, wielding control of the faithful, and organizing their subjects into fighting units to defend their land. To increase the empire's power, **Tetsuo** uses drugs and training to develop psychic abilities in some of his subjects. Most faithful among their numerous followers is **Tetsuo's** aide who is determined at all costs to destroy **Lady Miyako**, who offers sanctuary to any who come to her eastern shrine.

The Empire is infiltrated by teams of spies from the outside world, but all of them except **Lieutenant Yamada** —who takes temporary

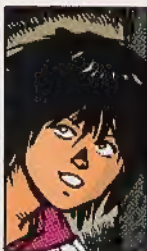
shelter with **Tyu**—are killed. **Ryu** wants to join **Yamada**, and **Tetsuo** meets the pair and reveals that **Yamada** has come to kill **Akira**. The spy decides to separate from **Ryu** and go his own way.

The **Colonel** is wounded and living in hiding with one of his scientists. He believes **Tetsuo** could become another **Akira**, and is determined to kill **Tetsuo** to atone for what he has brought about. However, military forces outside Neo-Tokyo are trying by computer to wrestle control of **SOL** from him. At the same time, **Tetsuo**, acting upon advice from **Lady Miyako**, is trying to master his own weaknesses so that he can master **Akira**.

Meanwhile, **Lady Miyako**, **Masaru** and **Kiyoko** try to



Masaru



Kaori



Kai



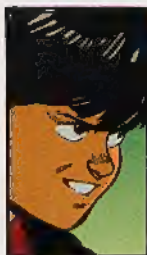
Lt. Yamada

convince **Kay** to join them in battle against **Tetsuo**. Although **Kay** lacks native psychic abilities, she is a powerful medium through whom the others can project their powers and strike as one. **Lady Miyako** explains that Akira's personality has been destroyed by his power, leaving him in a passive vessel, and that when Tetsuo's character is likewise eroded, he too will be beyond control. **Kay** considers Tetsuo's most recent action—destroying part of the moon and setting off geological cataclysms on earth merely to impress his and Akira's followers—and she agrees to be purified and join the others. Following his huge expenditure of power—which leaves many dead, and **Ryu** buried alive—Tetsuo begins to lose control, and his artificial arm assumes a grossly mutated form.

Aboard an American naval vessel, an international conclave of scientists studying the **Akira** phenomenon—which they've codenamed **Juvenile A**—are aghast to learn that, despite their recommendations, the world's armies have amassed an **Akira Assassination Corps**, and are even more upset by the knowledge that the young

and dedicated soldiers are sure to be slaughtered by the inconceivable might of their enemy. The Admiral commanding the ship scoffs when the scientists tell him that **Tetsuo** has teleported aboard to taunt his "fan club", refusing to be convinced even by the telekinetic havoc, death and injury the boy left in his wake.

Kaneda, who's teamed up with **Kai** and **Joker**—a friend and rival from his gang days—is outraged to learn of the risk **Miyako** has talked **Kay** into taking. He vows to kill **Tetsuo** himself rather than let her face such danger. Then, at long last, he kisses **Kay** and promises her that they'll spend the night together when they next meet.



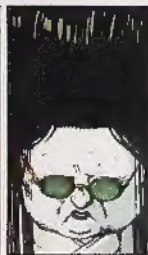
Kaneda



Chiyoko



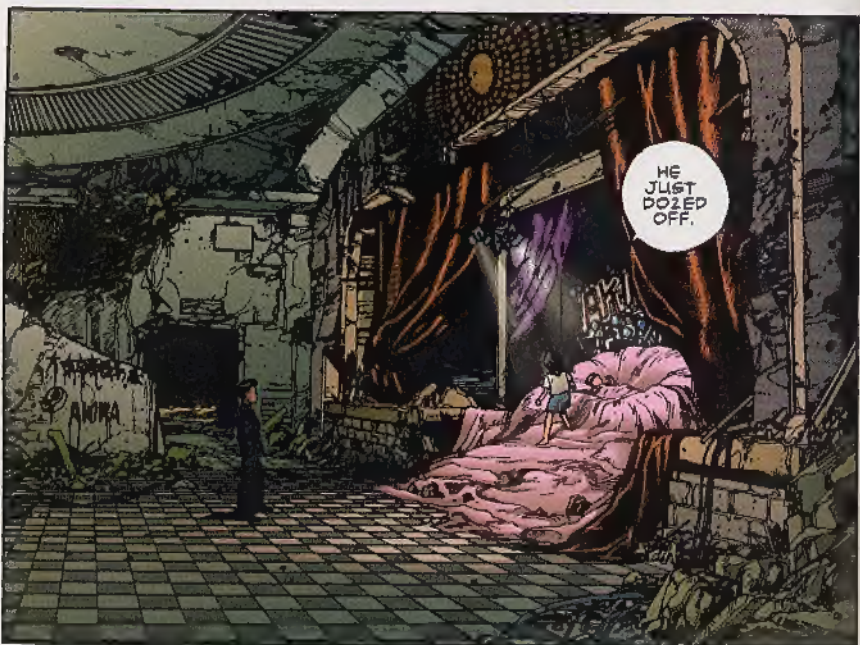
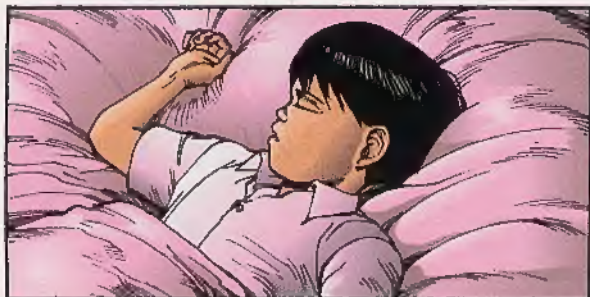
Kay

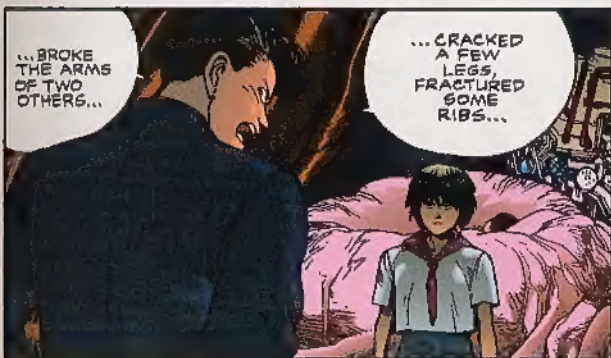


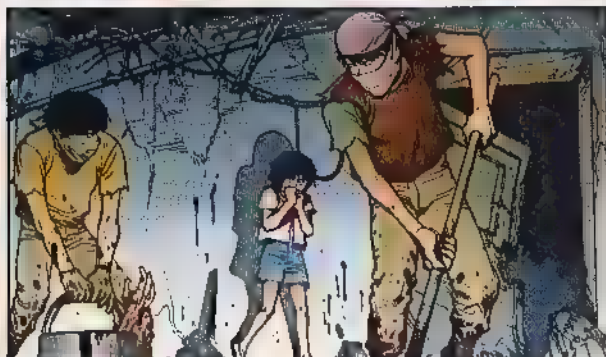
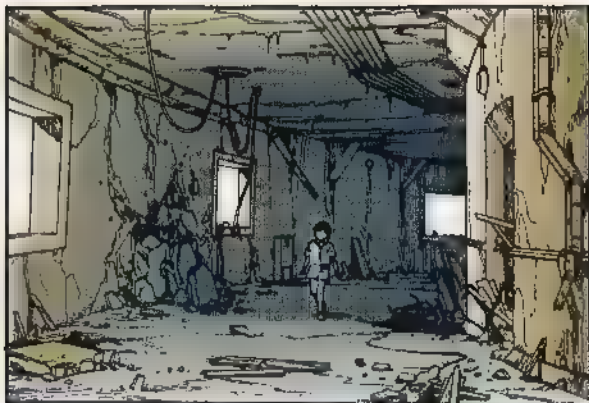
Lady Miyako

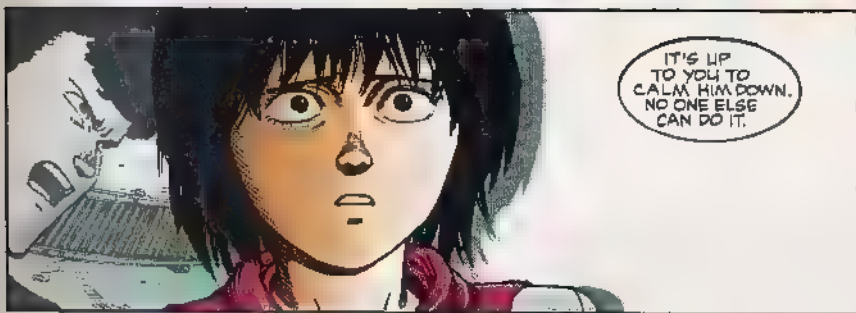
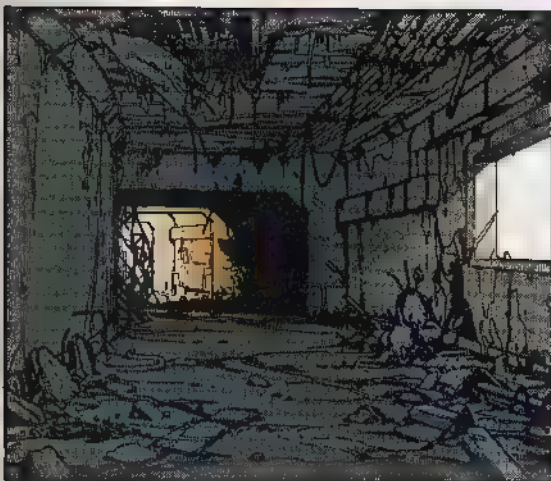
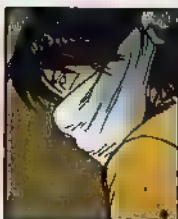


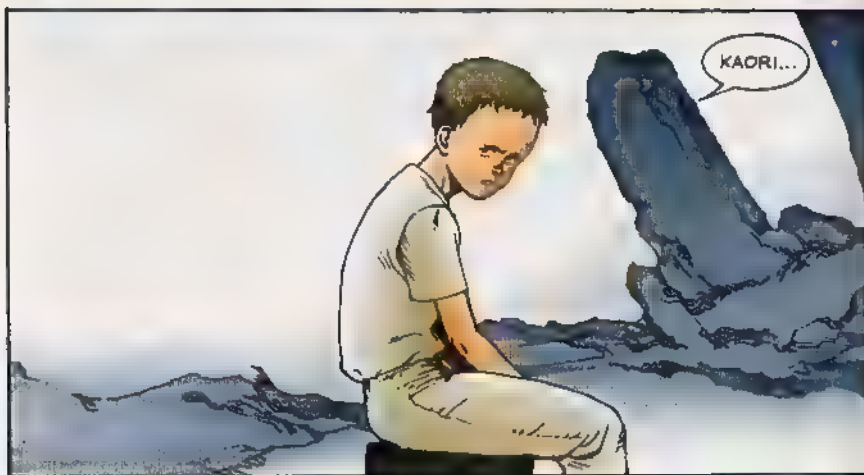


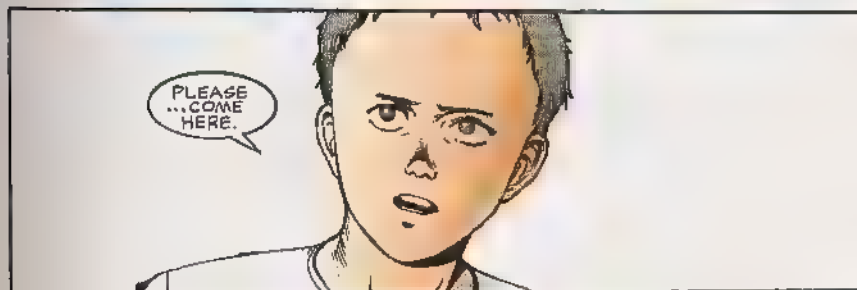
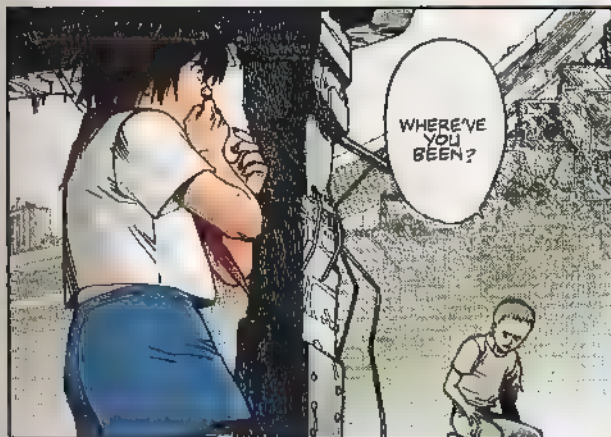
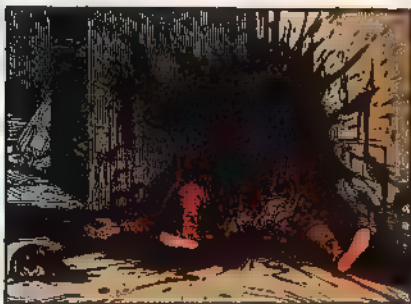


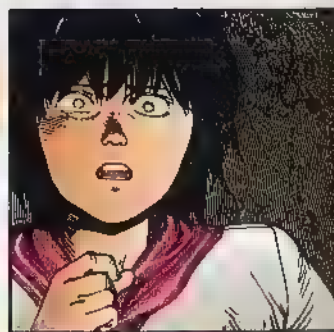
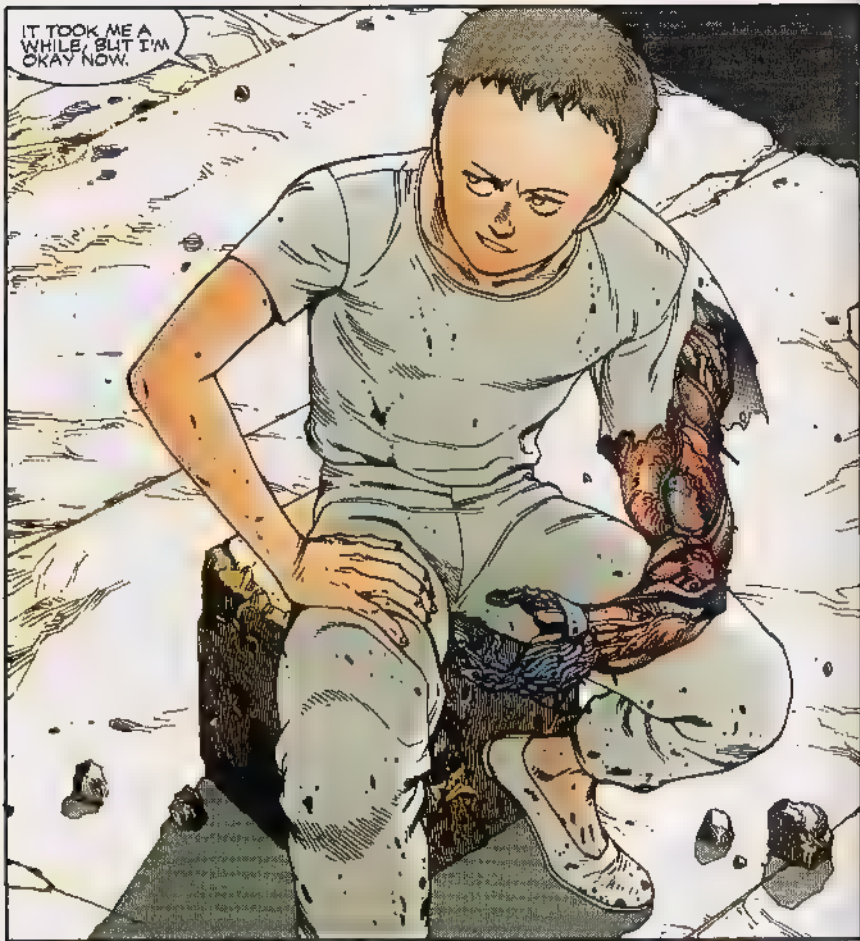


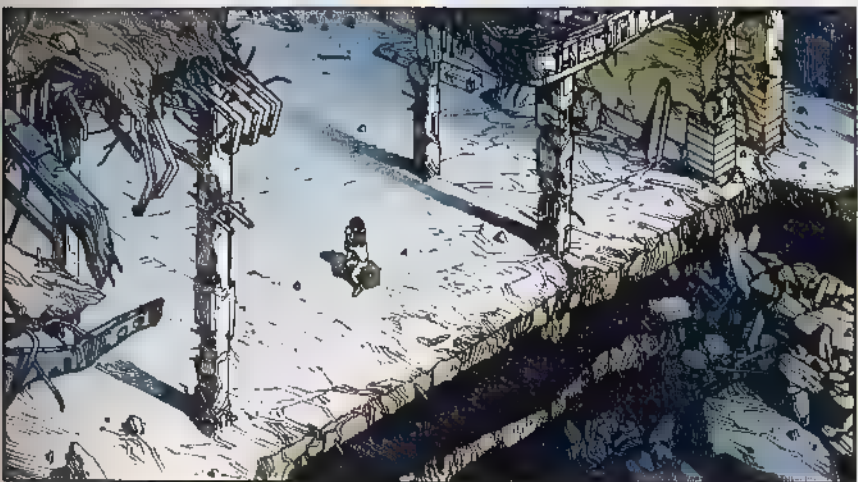
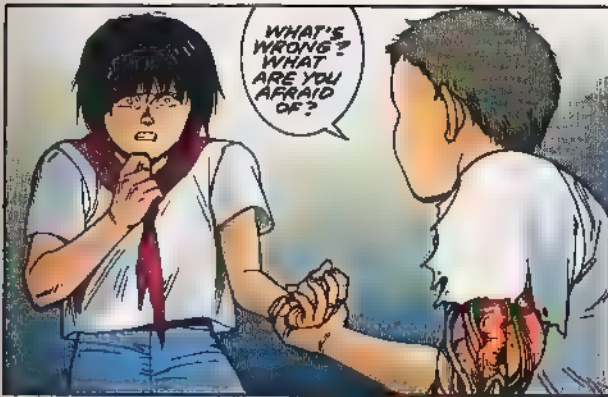


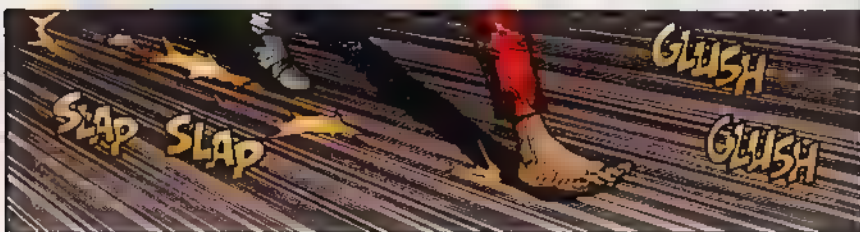


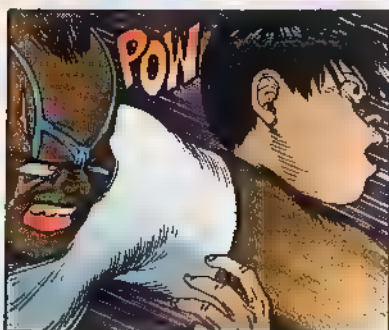


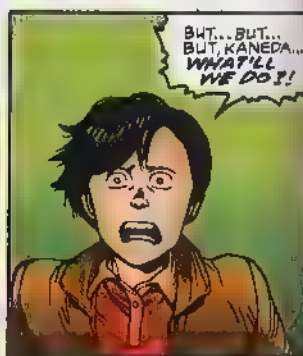
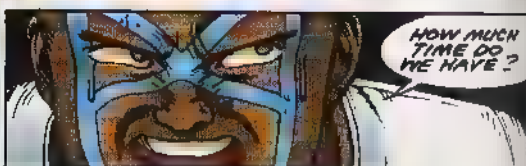
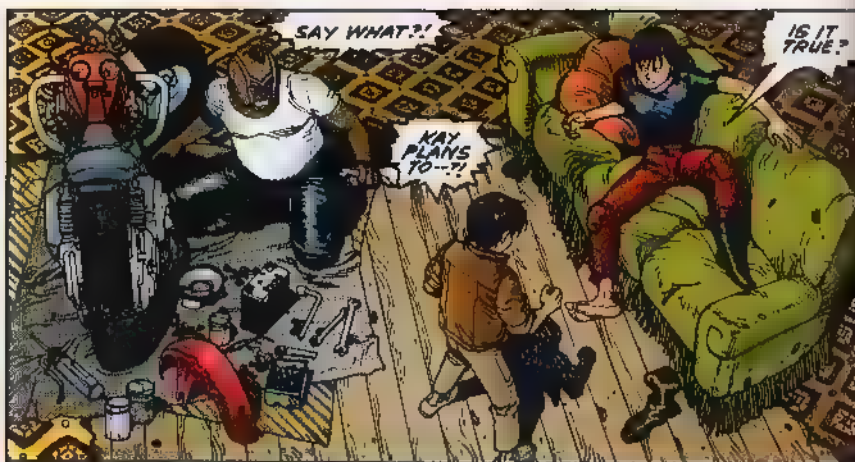








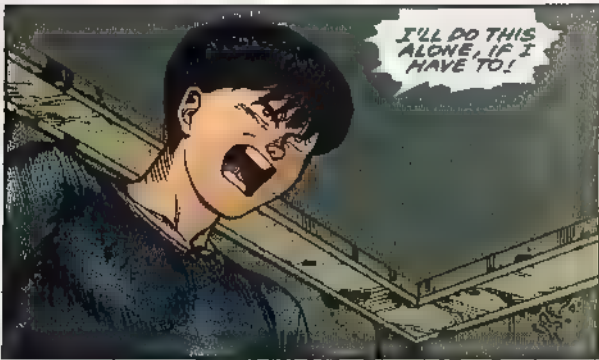






THAT'S
MY
PROBLEM!

STOMP



I'LL DO THIS
ALONE, IF I
HAVE TO!



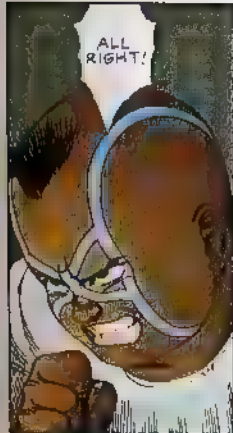
BUT... WE HAVE
NO BATTLE
PLANS... WE
HAVEN'T EVEN
RIGGED UP
ANY WEAPONS.



WHAT DO YOU
SAY, JOKER?



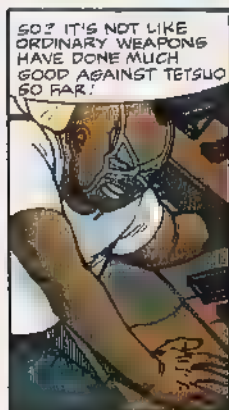
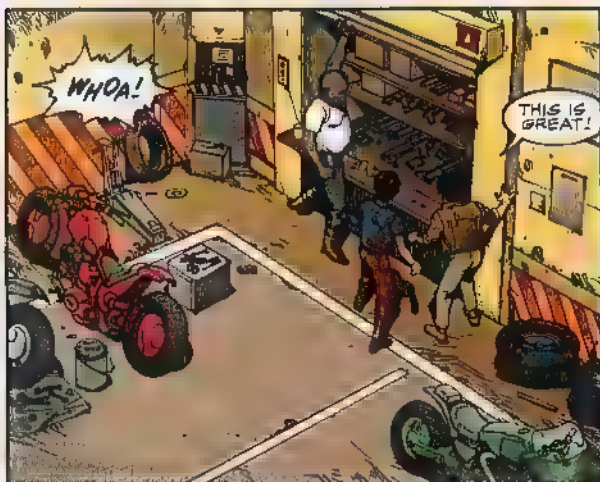
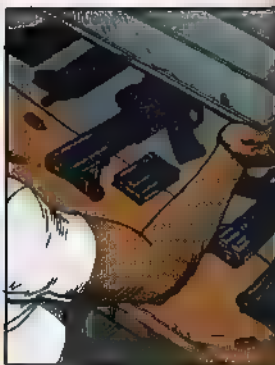
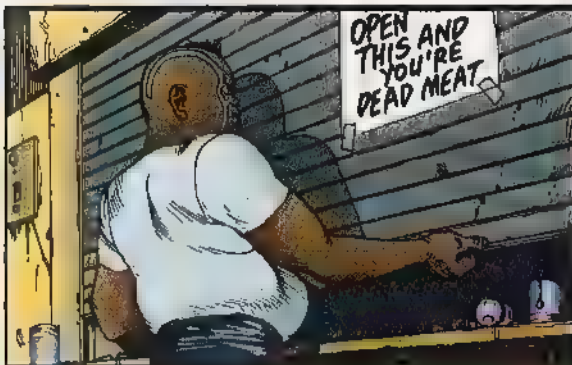
THEN I'LL
KILL HIM
WITH MY
BARE
HANDS!

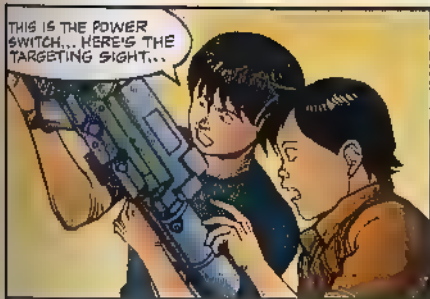
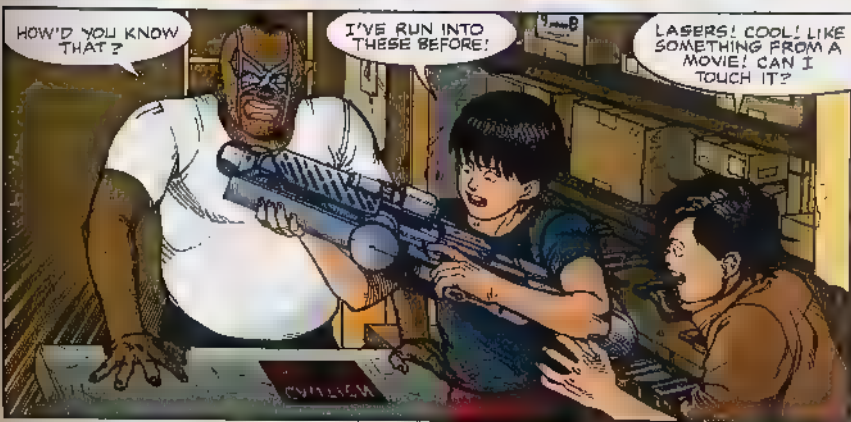
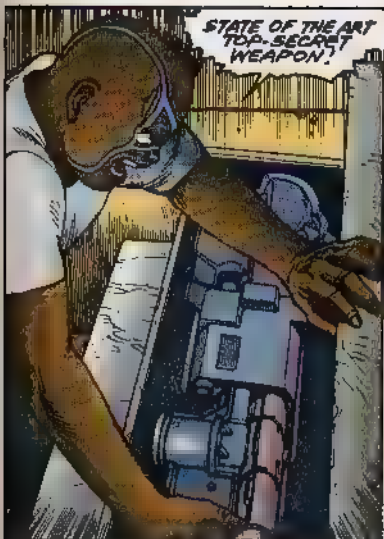


ALL
RIGHT!



BUT FIRST,
COME WITH ME A
SECOND.

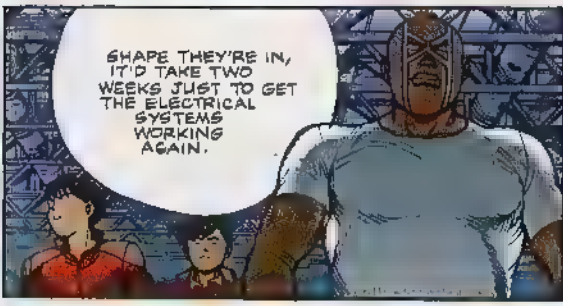






HEY!
AREN'T
THESE
...?

THOSE
JUNKERS
WE FOUND
DOWN
IN
THE
SUBWAY!



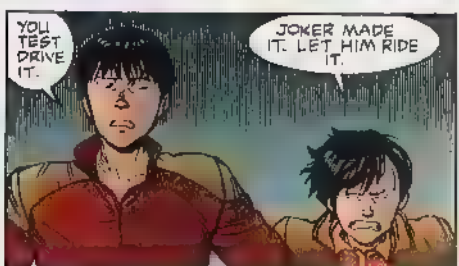
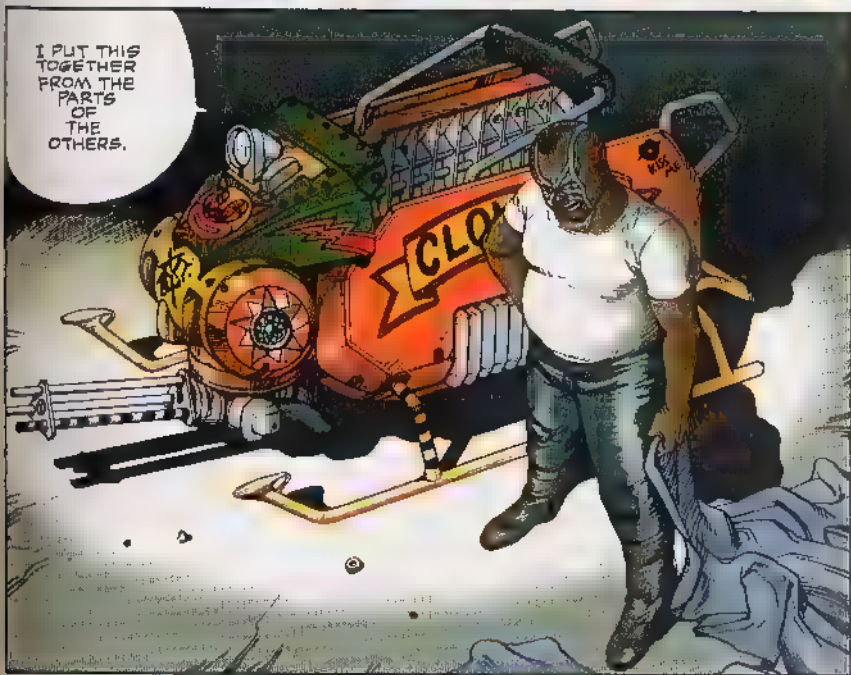
SHAPE THEY'RE IN,
IT'D TAKE TWO
WEEKS JUST TO GET
THE ELECTRICAL
SYSTEMS
WORKING
AGAIN.

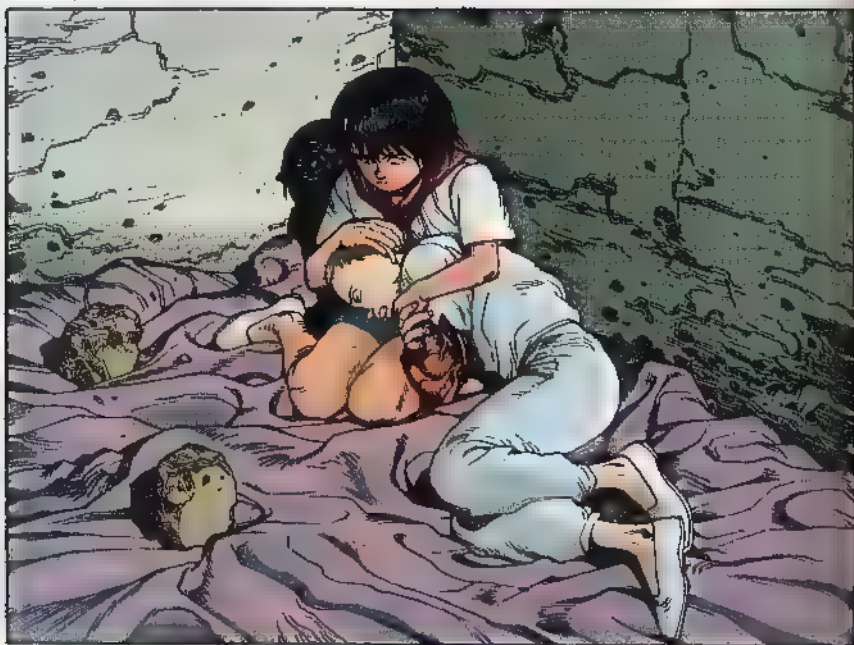
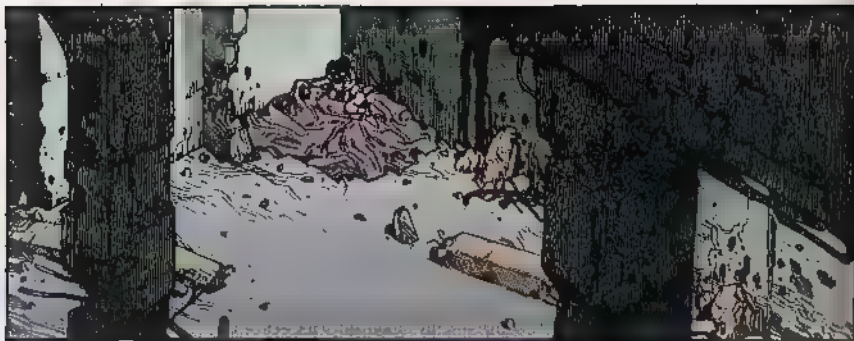


WISH
I COULD USE
ONE.



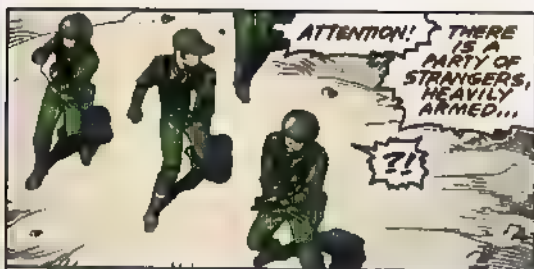
CHECK
THIS OUT,
KANEDA.

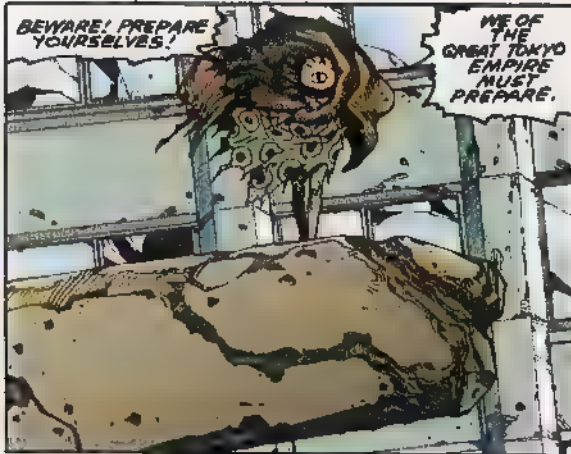


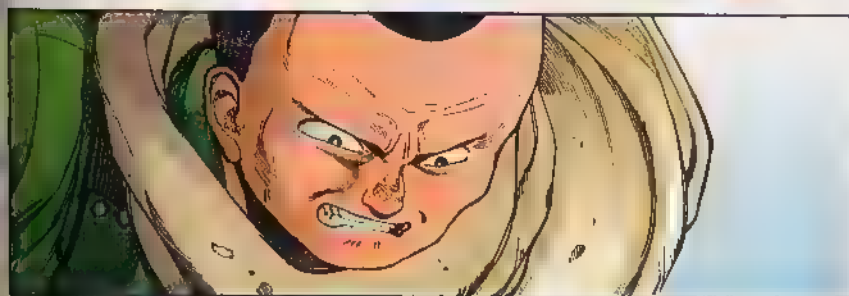
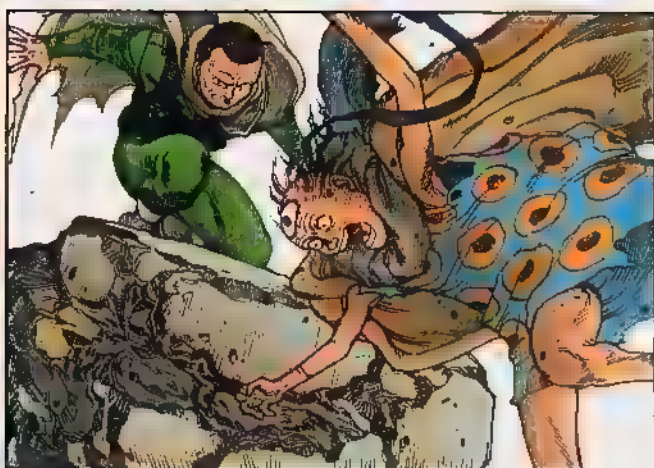
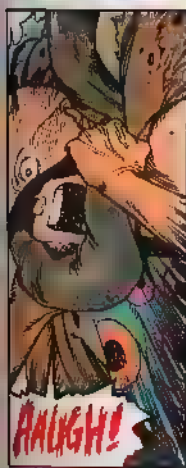
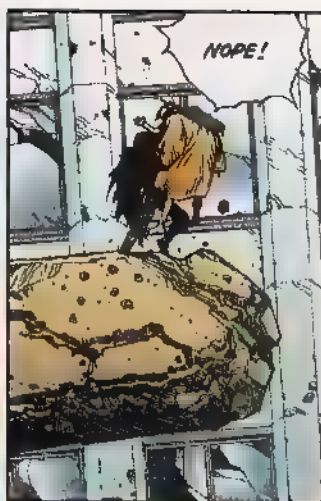


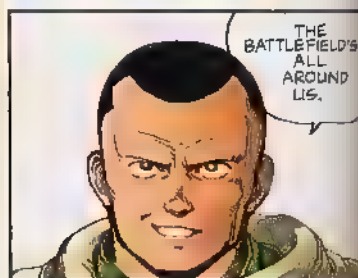
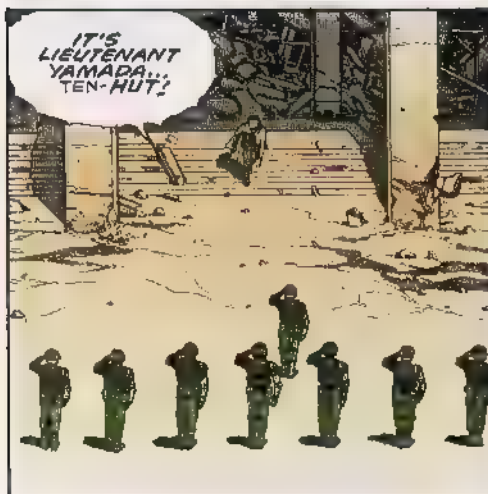
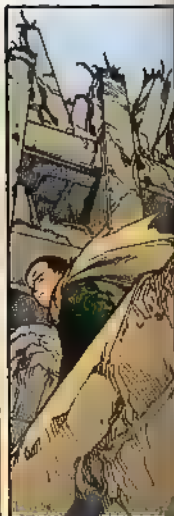
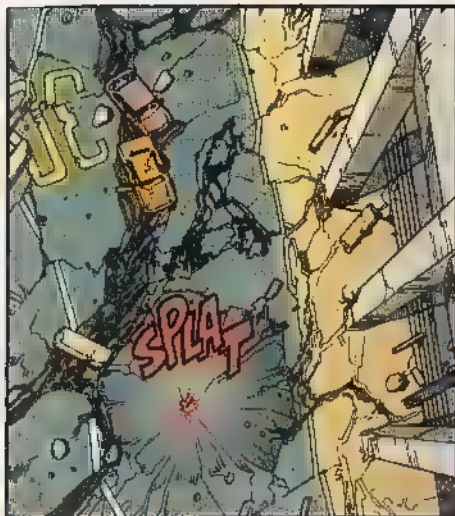


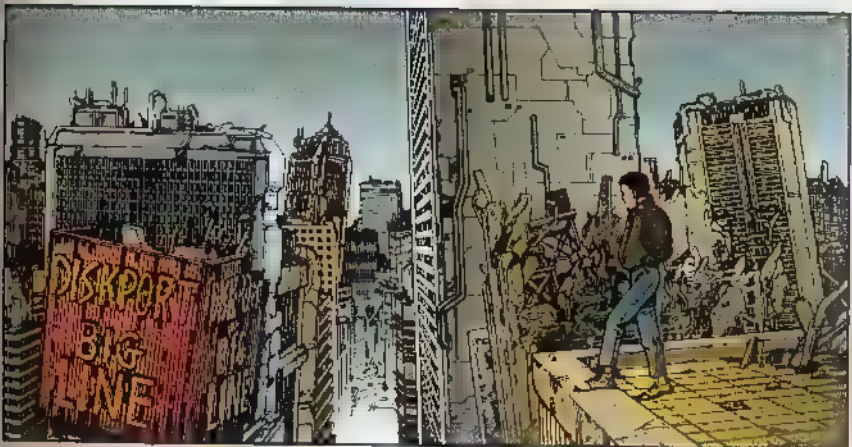


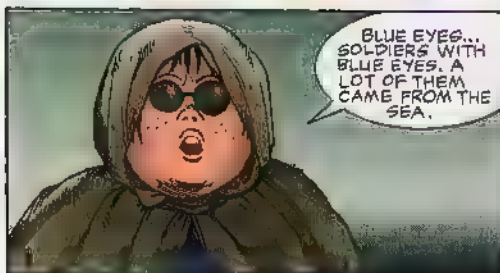
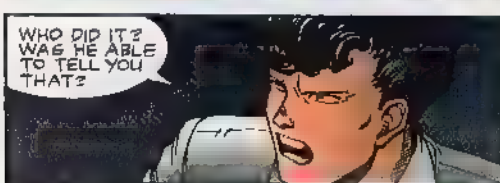
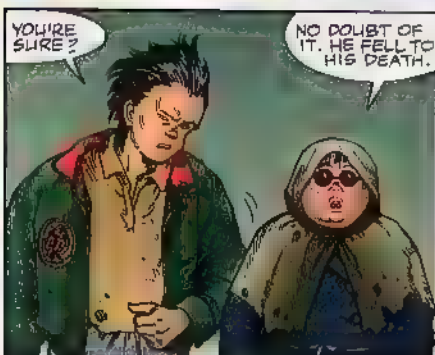
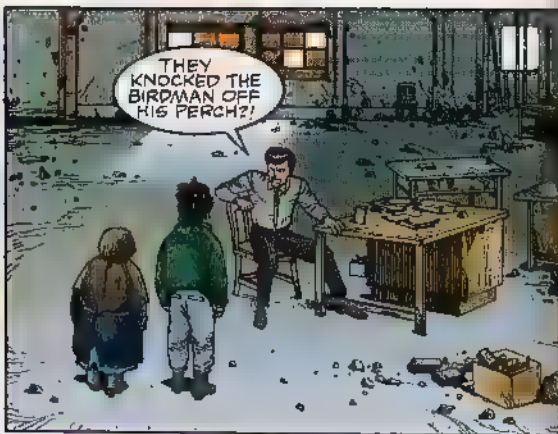


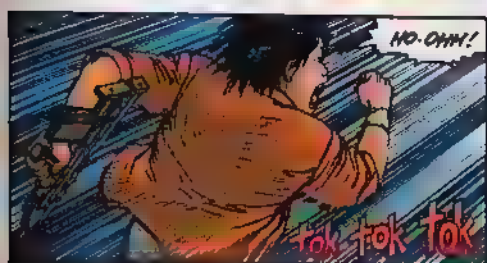


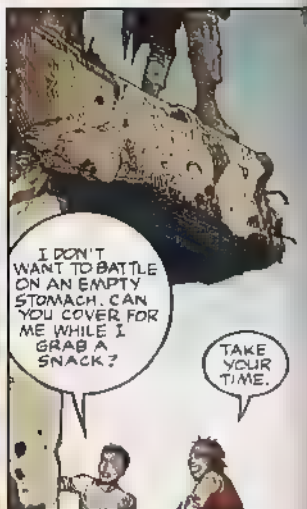
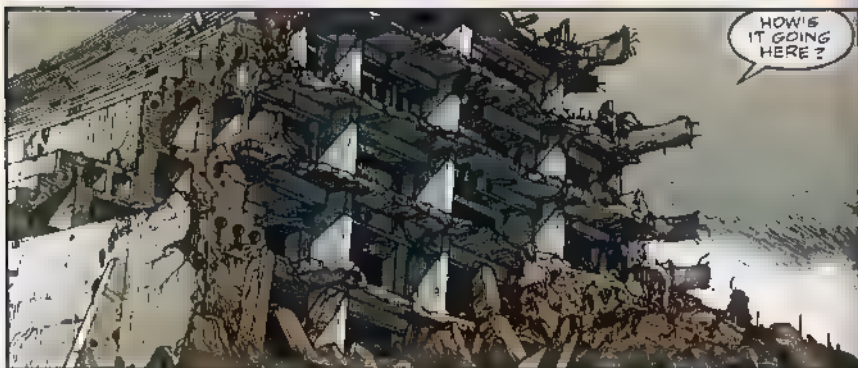
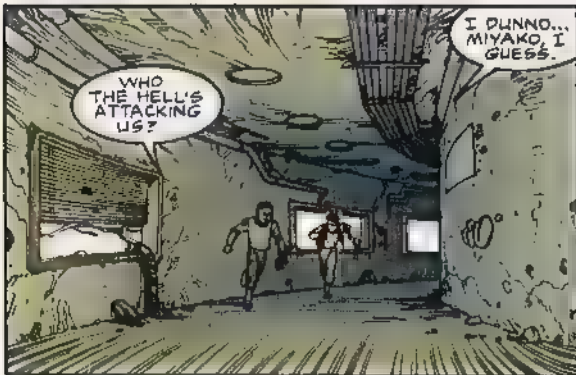


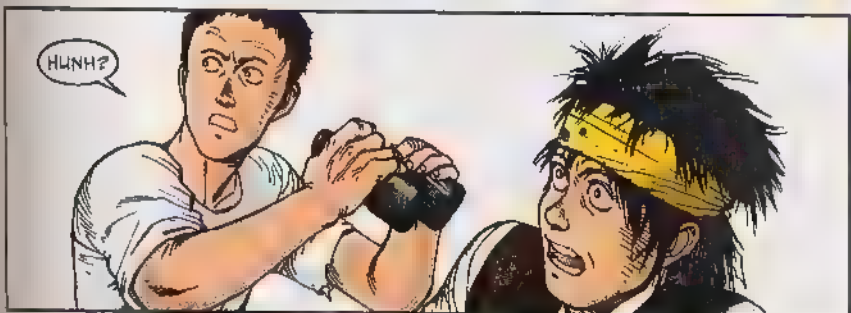
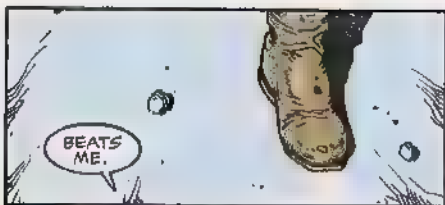












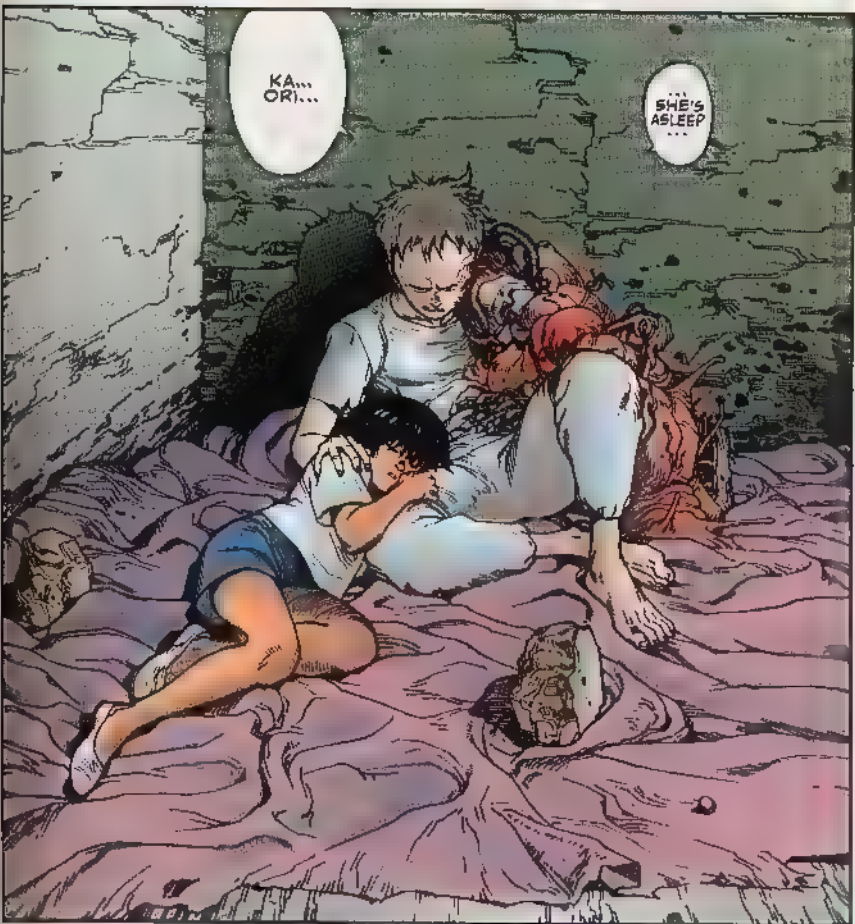


UH... KAORI...
I WAS ASKED
TO BRING
HER...

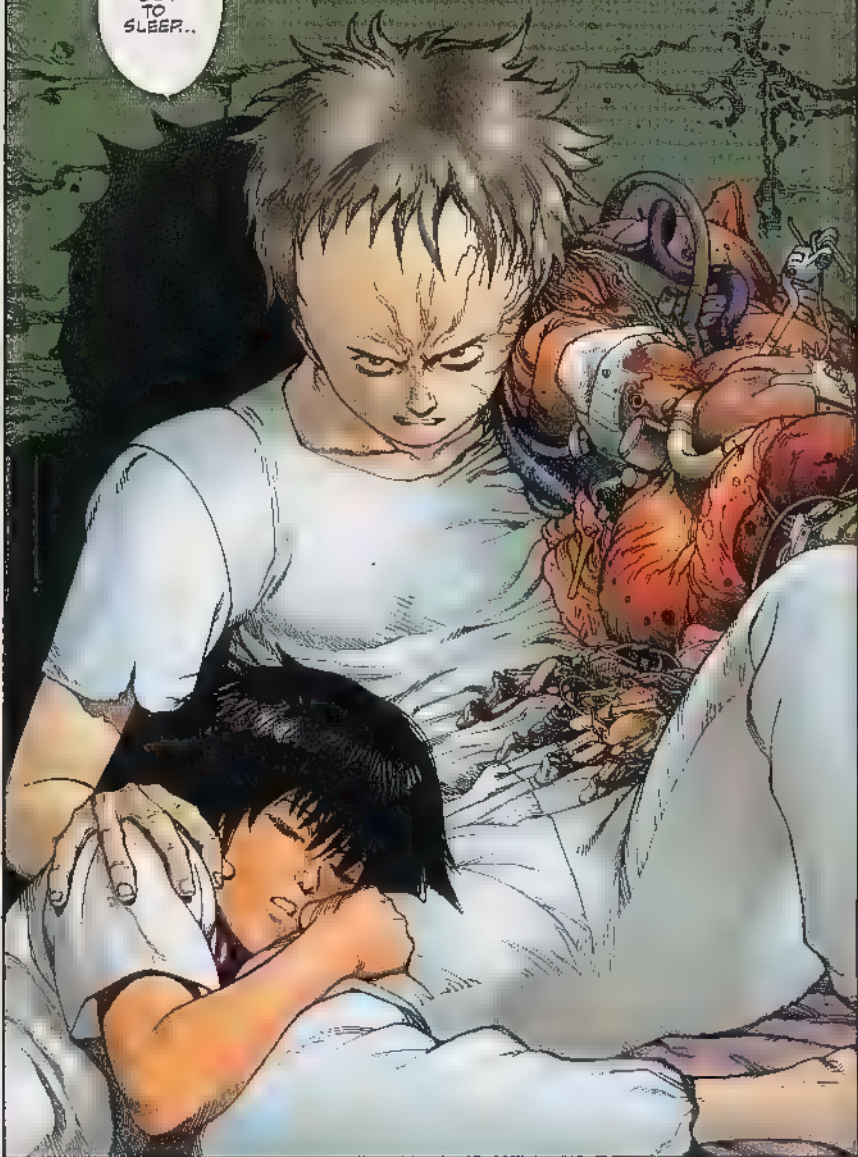


KA...
ORI...

...
SHE'S
ASLEEP
...



...SHE
JUST
GOT
TO
SLEEP...





THE STADIUM?

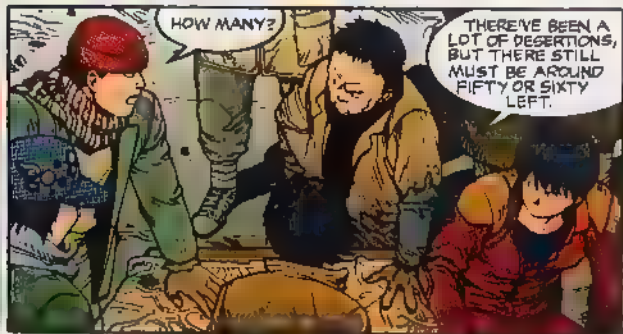
YEAH.
THEY MOVED
IN THERE AFTER
THEIR BIG CON-
VOCATION.

A LOT OF SOLDIERS
FROM THEIR EMPIRE ARE
RIGHT THERE WITH THEM.



HOW MANY?

THERE'VE BEEN A
LOT OF DESERTIONS,
BUT THERE STILL
MUST BE AROUND
FIFTY OR SIXTY
LEFT.



THERE ARE STILL
SOME PASSABLE
ROADS BETWEEN
HERE AND THERE, SO
WE CAN USE BIKES
TO GET THERE.

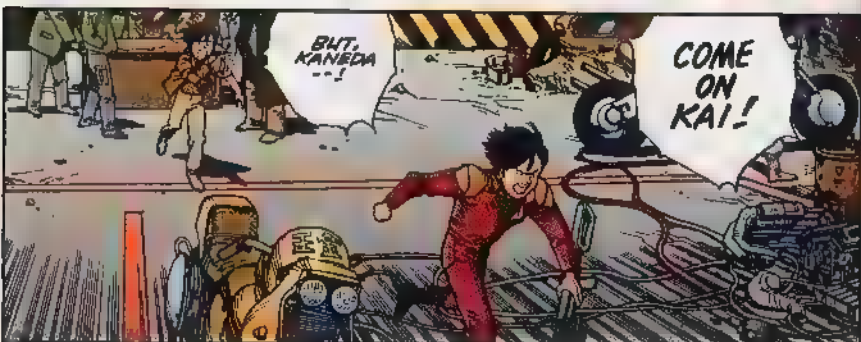
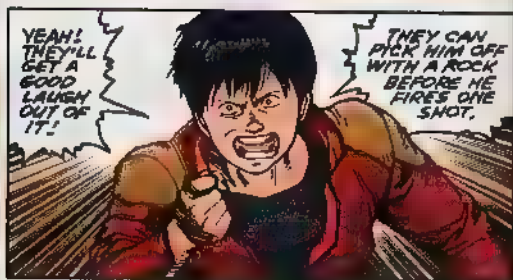
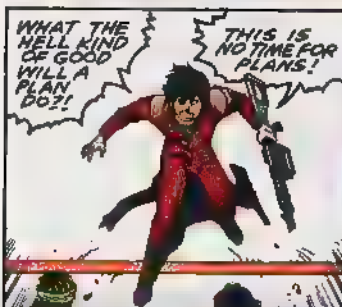
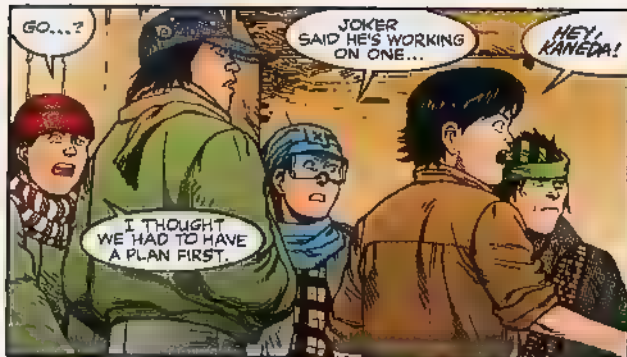


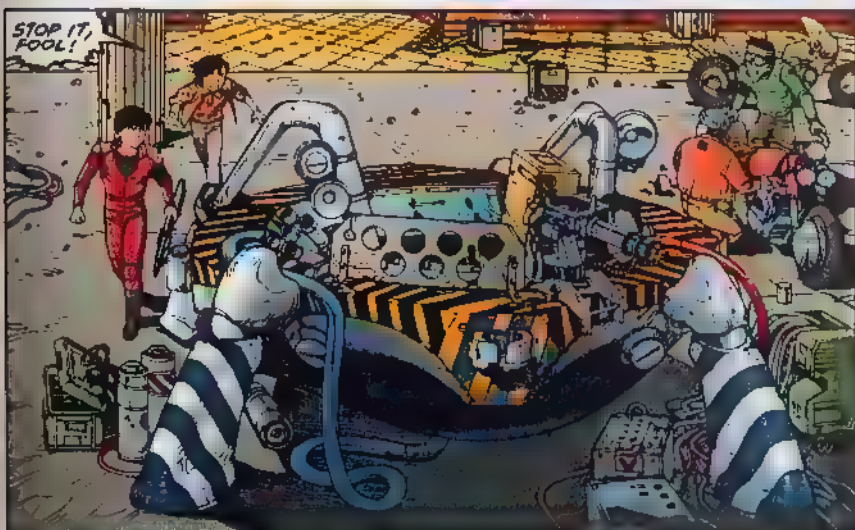
RIGHT.

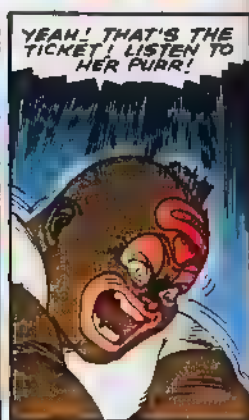
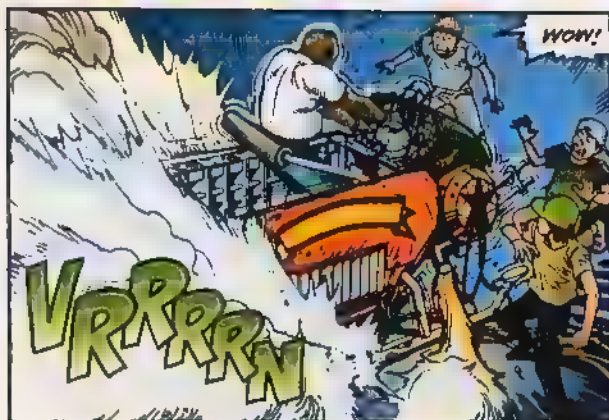


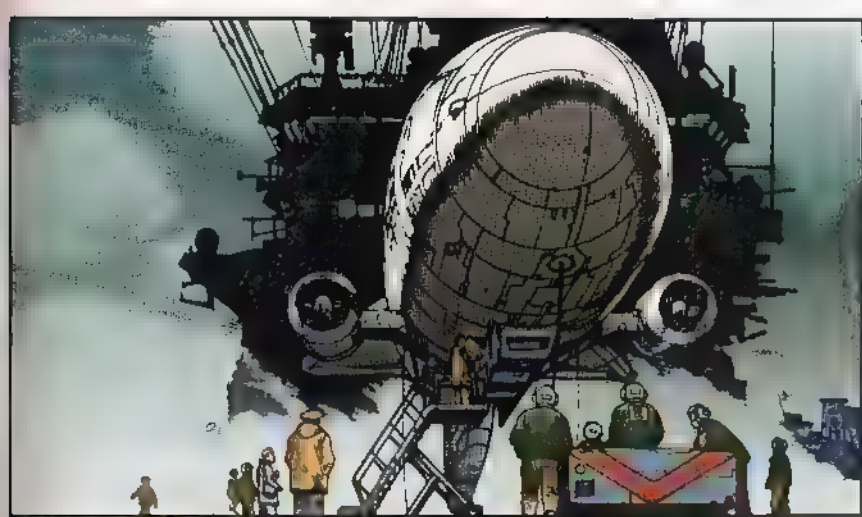
LET'S GO!



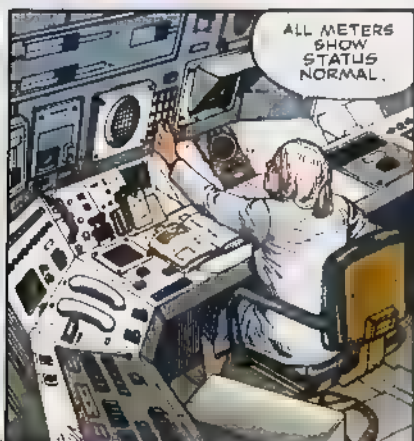




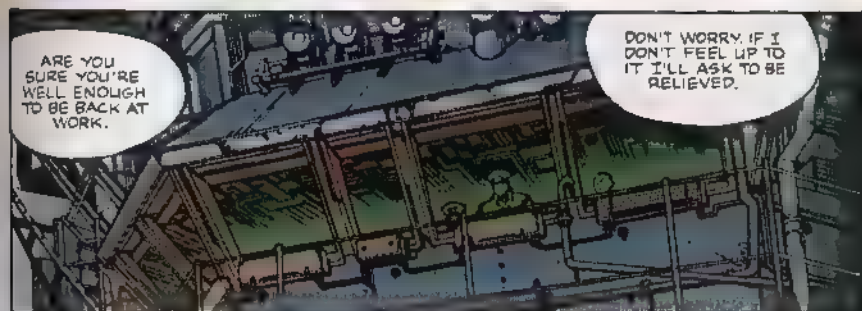




WHAT KIND OF
READINGS ARE YOU
GETTING,
DR. JORRIS?

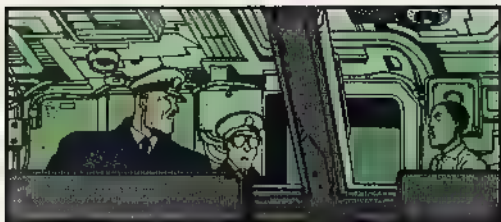


ALL METERS
SHOW
STATUS
NORMAL.



ARE YOU
SURE YOU'RE
WELL ENOUGH
TO BE BACK AT
WORK.

DON'T WORRY. IF I
DON'T FEEL UP TO
IT I'LL ASK TO BE
RELIEVED.



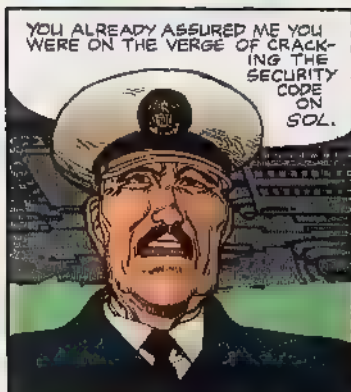
EVERYTIME I
ASK YOU, IT'S "TWO
MORE DAYS...THREE
MORE
DAYS..."



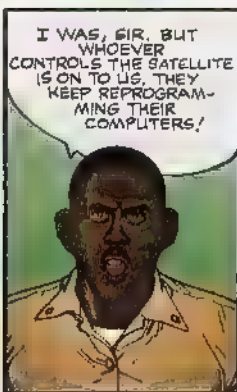
WHAT ARE YOU
SAYING,
LIEUTENANT
?



YOU ALREADY ASSURED ME YOU
WERE ON THE VERGE OF CRACK-
ING THE
SECURITY
CODE
ON
SOL.



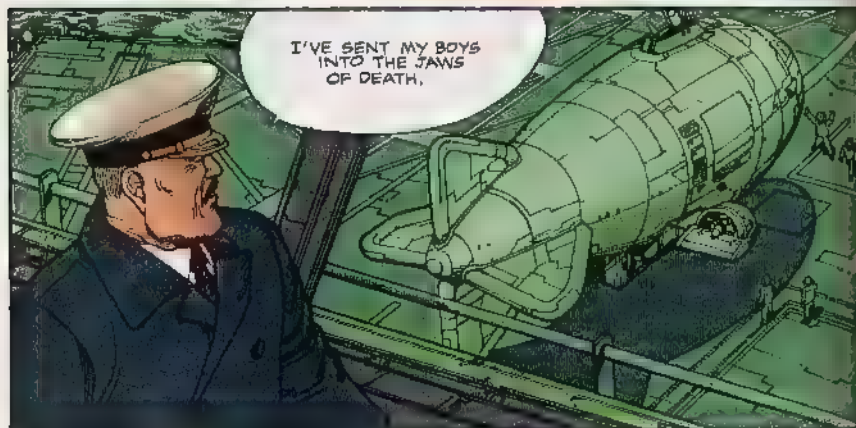
I WAS, SIR. BUT
WHOEVER
CONTROLS THE SATELLITE
IS ON TO US. THEY
KEEP REPROGRAM-
MING THEIR
COMPUTERS!



*I DON'T WANT TO
HEAR EXCUSES!*



I'VE SENT MY BOYS
INTO THE JAWS
OF DEATH.



WATCH OUT!
PART OF THAT
WIRE IS
COMING
LOOSE!

YOU'VE
GOTTA
REMEMBER,
THE WIND KEEPS
PULLING AT
IT!

KLAK

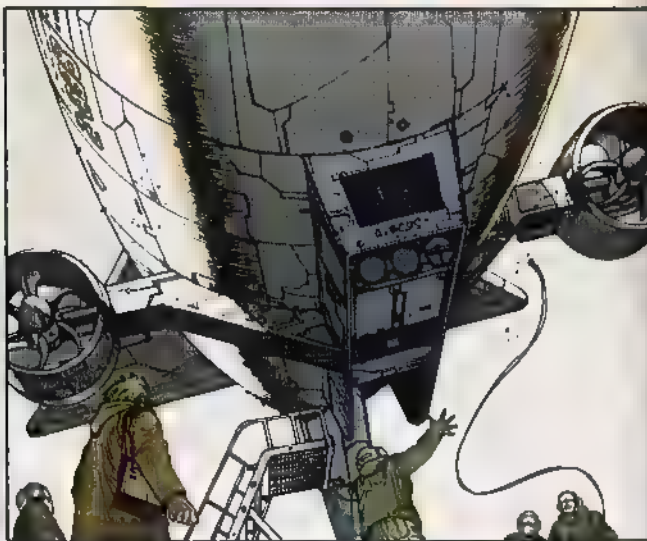
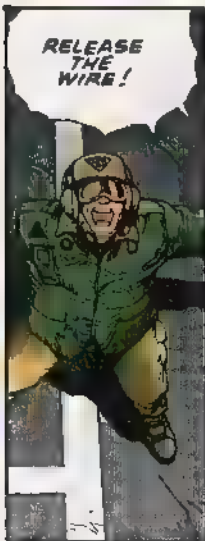
HOW ARE YOU
DOING IN
THERE,
DR. SIMMONS?

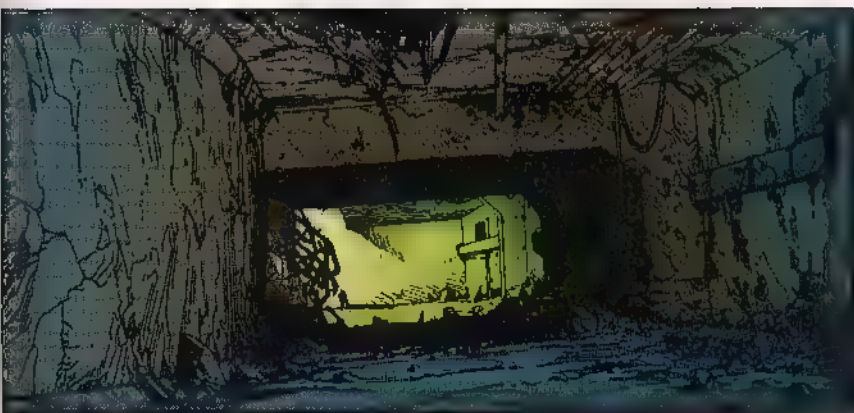
A LITTLE
CRAMPED
BUT OTHER-
WISE,
FINE.

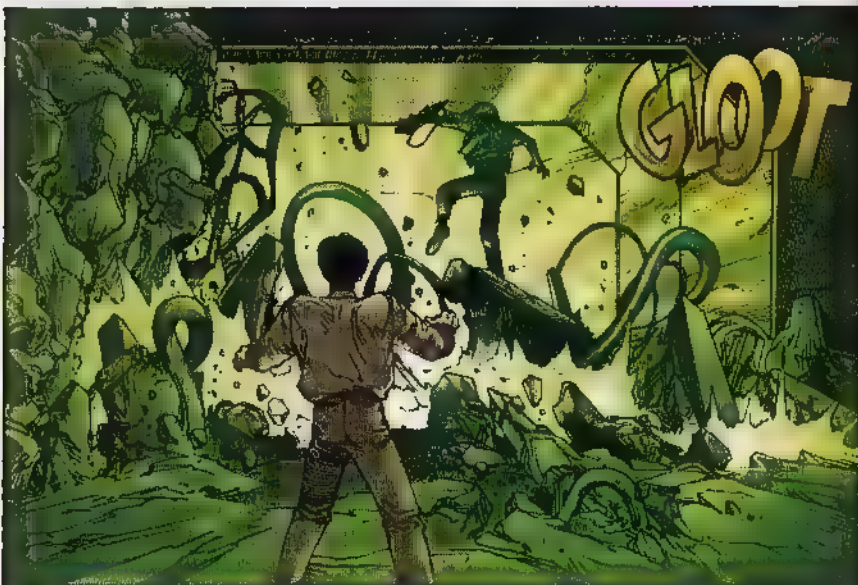
I WISH I WEREN'T
THE ONLY ONE
GOING.

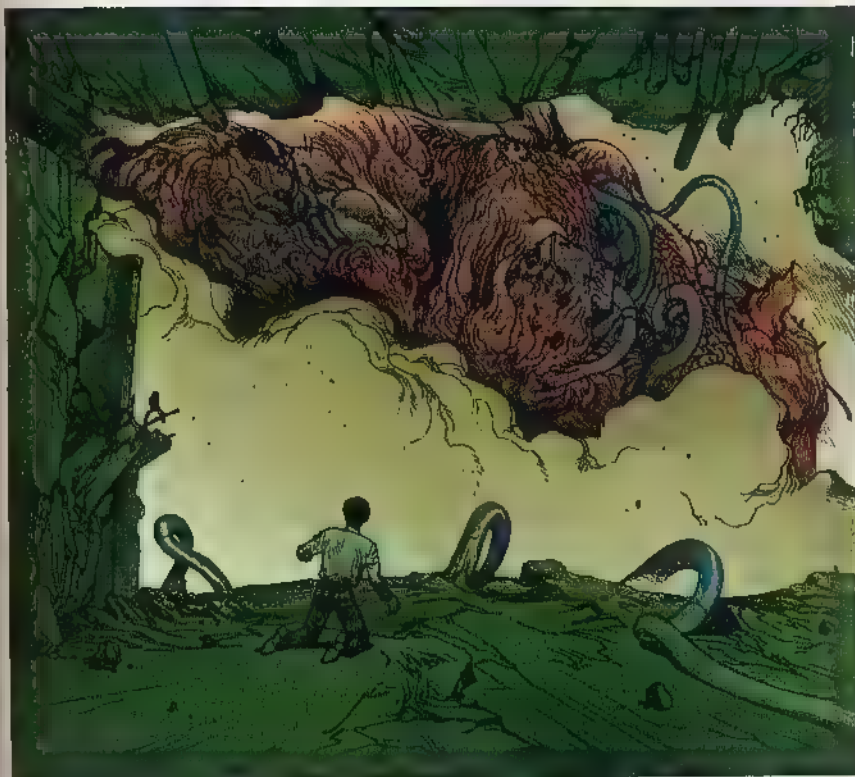
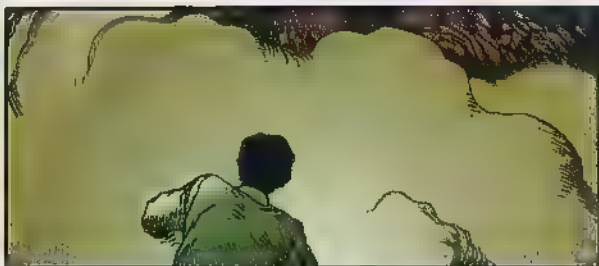
IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
THE ALTERNATIVE
MAY BE
THAT WE
ALL
SIMPLY
VANISH.

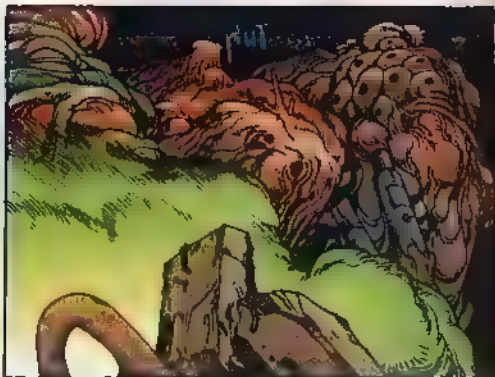
SO PLEASE...



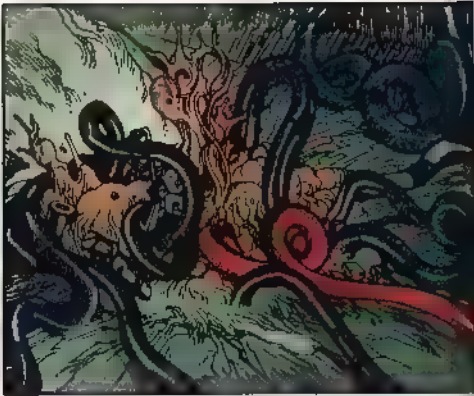


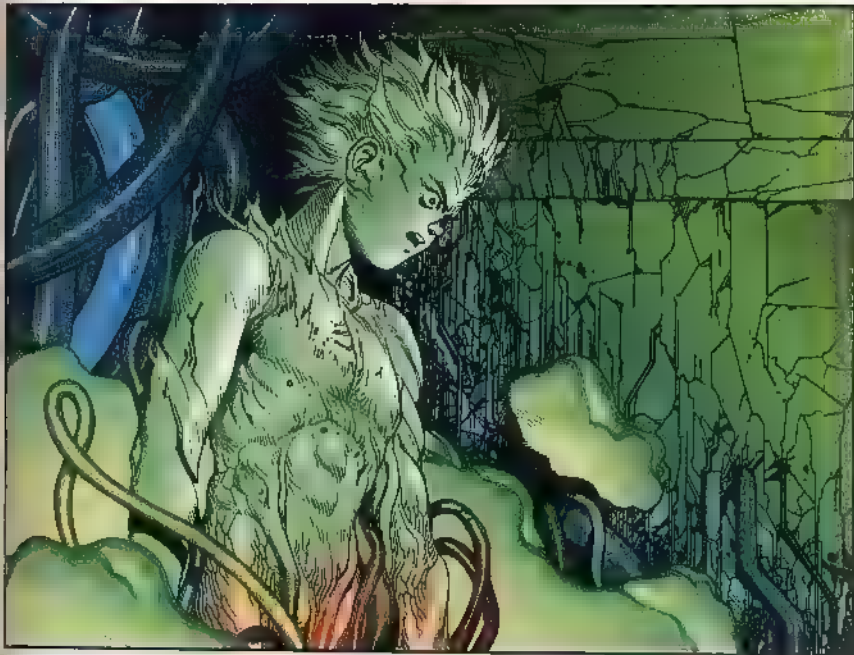


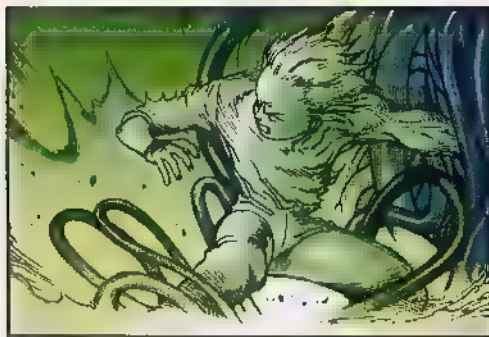
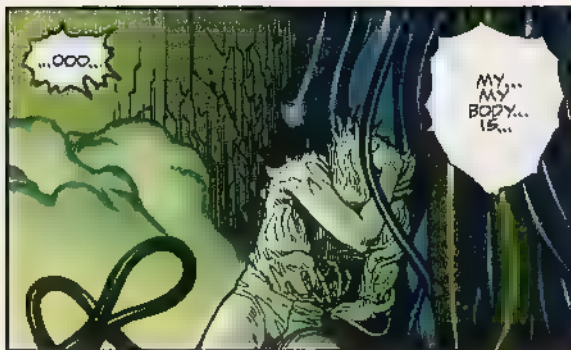




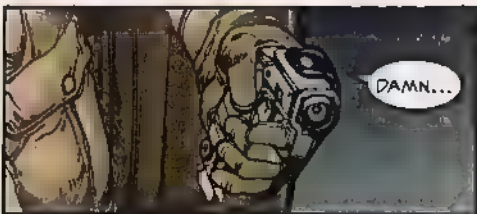
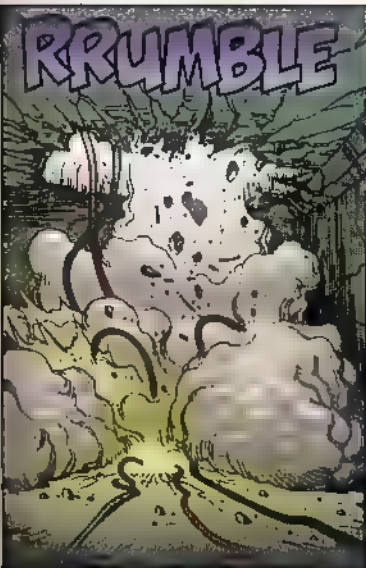








RRUMBLE



DAMN...



...SO CLOSE...



PUFF

PUFF

PUFF

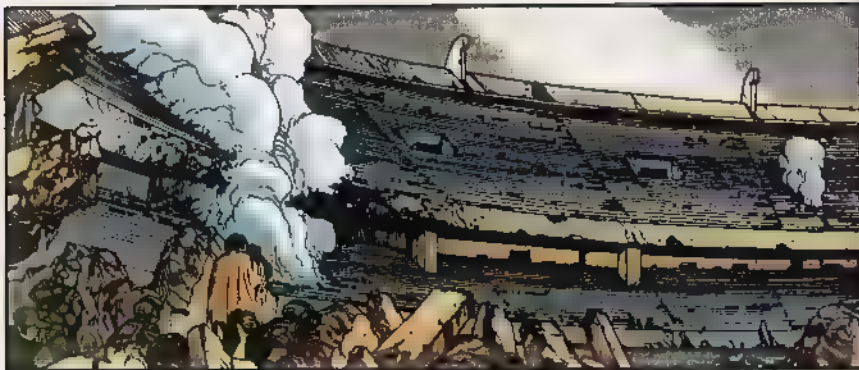


PUFF

PUFF



WHAT THE HELL AM I GONNA DO?!



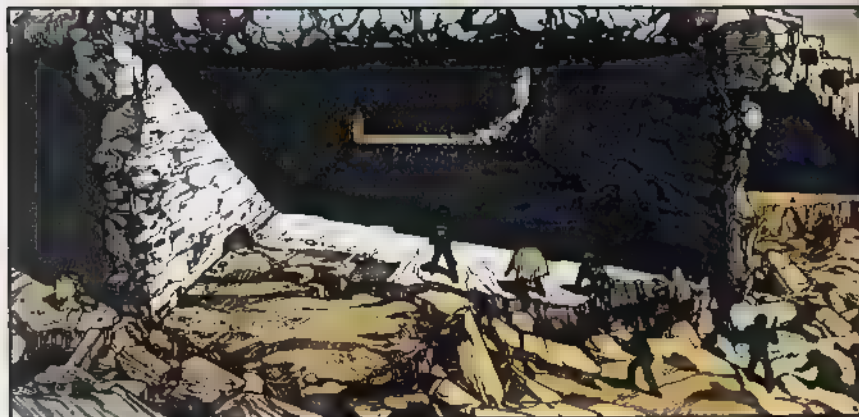
NOT AS BIG AS
THE LAST
ONE
WAS.

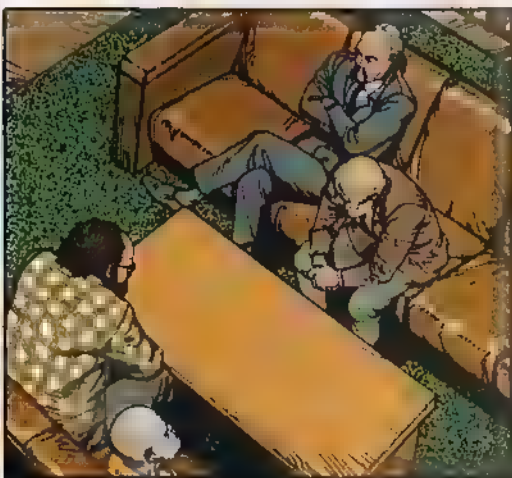
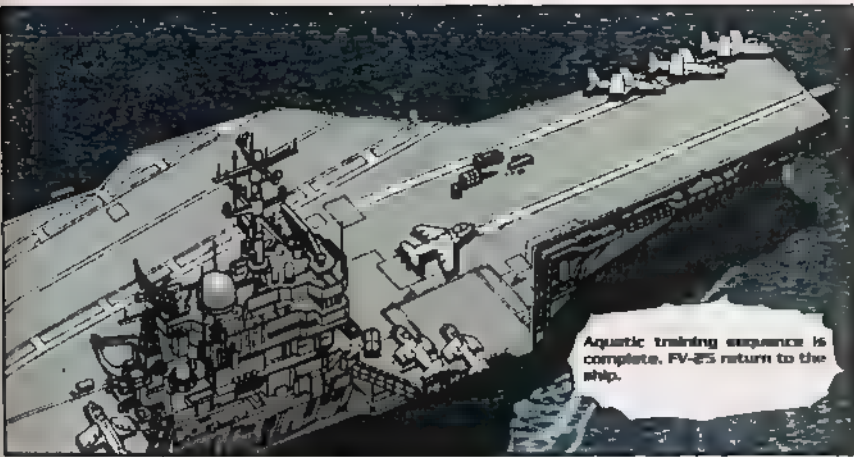


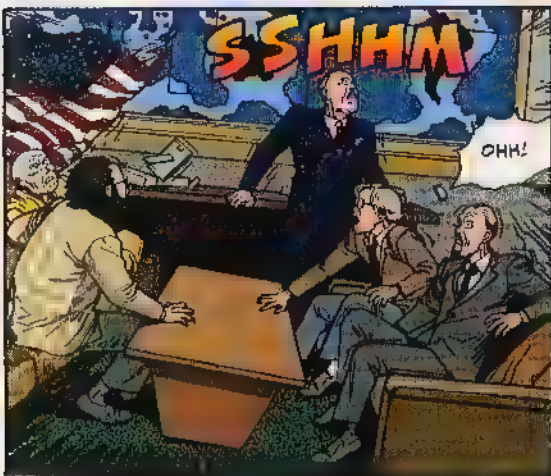
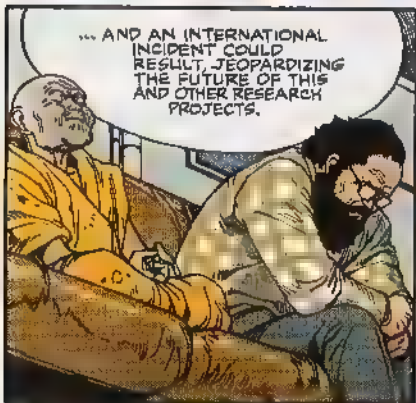
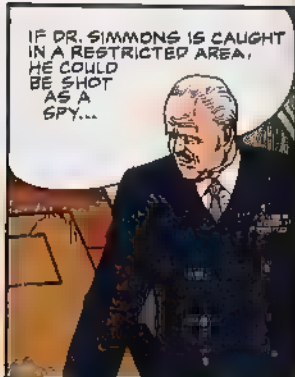
COULD THEY BE
FIGHTING AMONG
THEMSELVES,
SIR?



WE'LL FIND OUT
WHEN WE GET
THERE.







Battle stations! All personnel to battle stations immediately!

Secure all aircraft

Anti-Submarine
Copter SH-60,
take off at once!

GET ME A DAMAGE
REPORT! AND I
WANT WORD ON WHAT
HIT US: WAS IT A
MISSILE OR
A TORPEDO?

I DON'T KNOW YET, SIR. WE'VE HAD
NO VISUAL CONTACT, AND NO SIGNS OF
ANY SMOKE.

AHHH!

KAGHIN

THE
SHIP IS
BUCKLING!

GIIIN

THERE
IT IS
AGAIN!

GIIIN

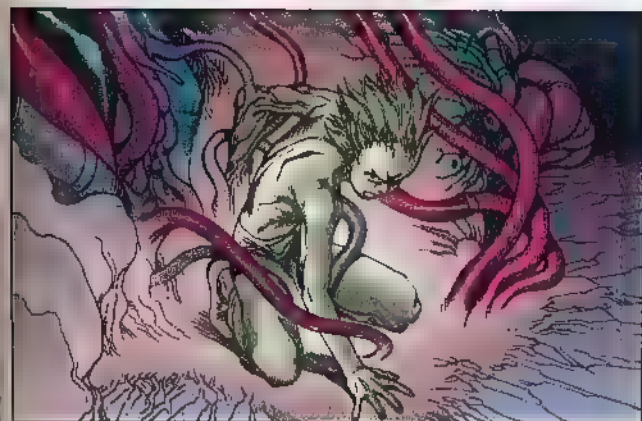
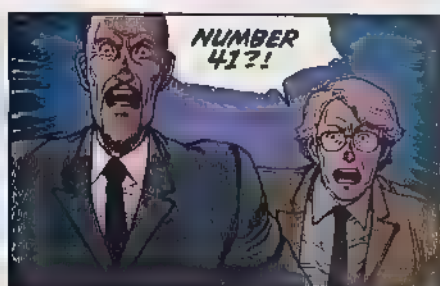
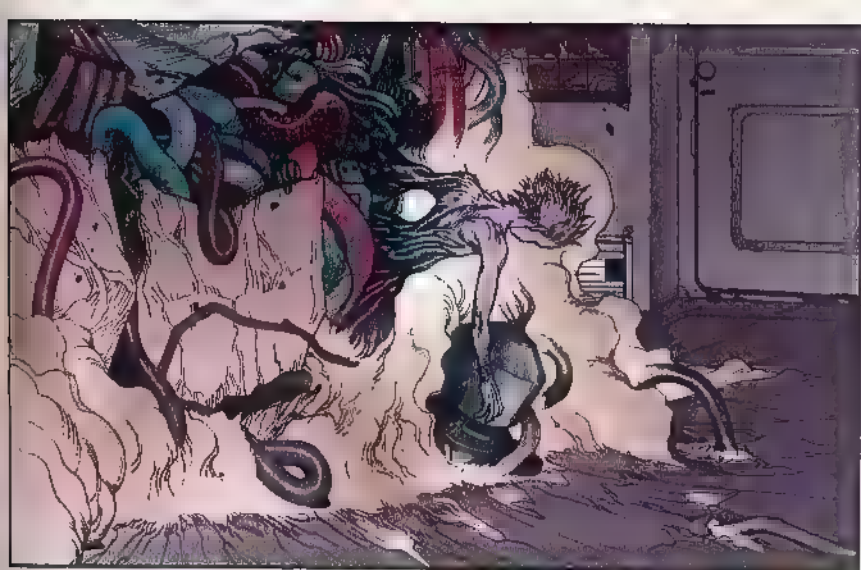
HAS IT STOPPED?

IT'S
HUNTING
US!

EH?

GONGG

HE'S
COMING!



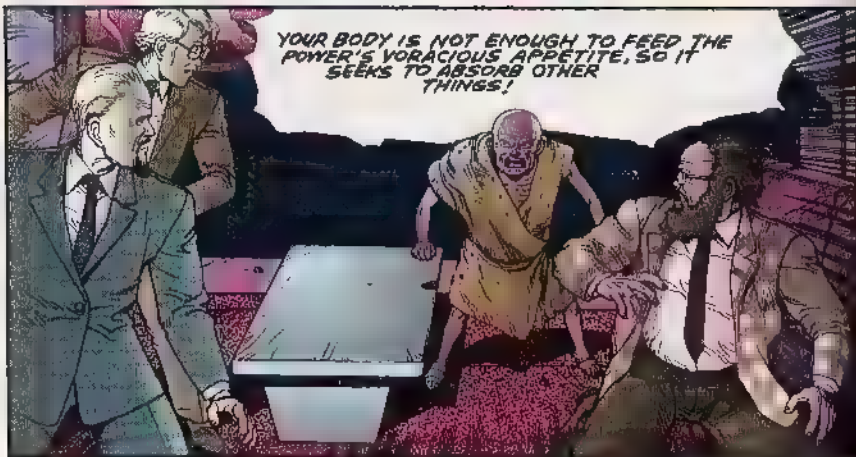


...MY...
BODY...

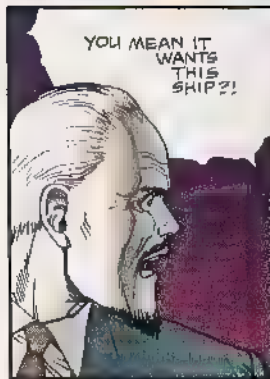
...WHAT'S
HAPPENING
TO...?



THE POWER...



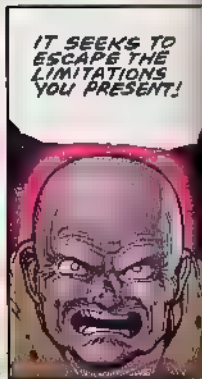
YOUR BODY IS NOT ENOUGH TO FEED THE
POWER'S VORACIOUS APPETITE, SO IT
SEEKS TO ABSORB OTHER
THINGS!



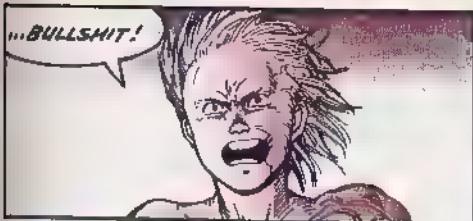
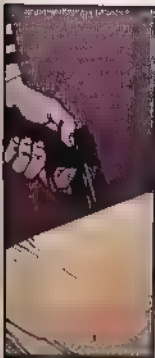
YOU MEAN IT
WANTS
THIS
SHIP?!

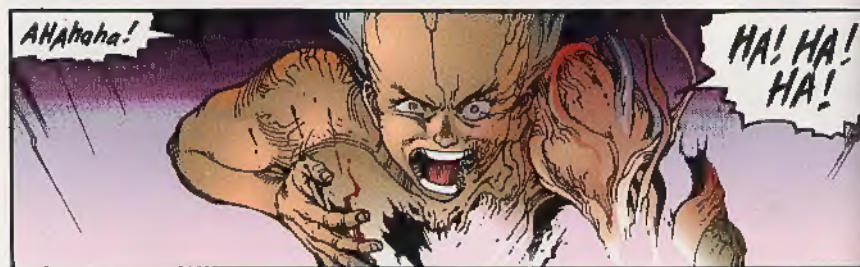
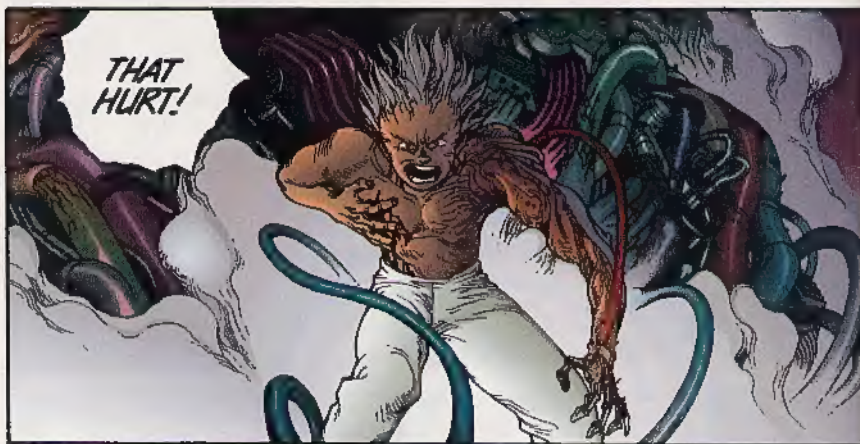
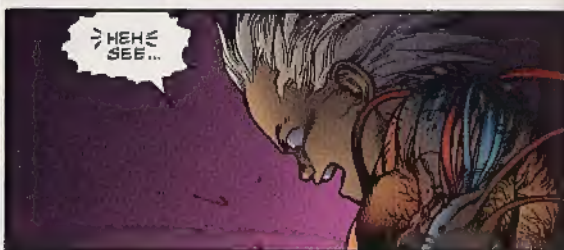


N... NONSENSE...

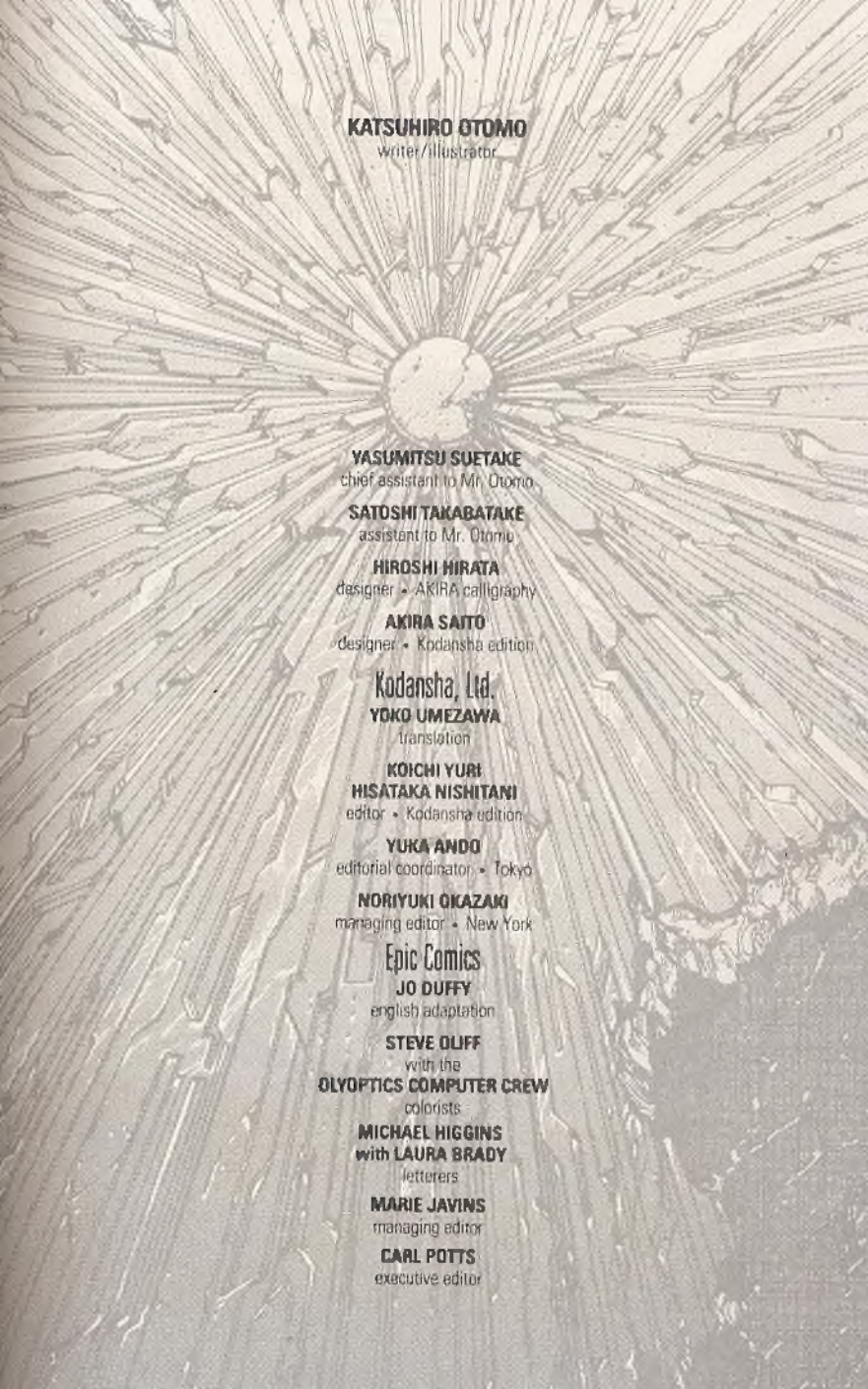


IT SEEKS TO
ESCAPE THE
LIMITATIONS
YOU PRESENT!





NEXT ISSUE: **ARMS RACE**



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Emperor Akira mercifully sleeps, but the limitations of an increasingly barely human body wear on Tetsuo, the power within eager to escape his flesh. Ragged American troops begin what passes for an assault on the city of Neo-Tokyo, as duplicitous scientists, pushed to the edge, scheme agendas to undo the powerful forces in motion. And below the rubble, a desperate Kaneda and Joker arm themselves for a war they have no hope of winning and no way of avoiding.

The madness that passes for day-to-day in the Great Tokyo Empire has begun to take its toll on all... bringing each that much closer to the breaking point...

KATSUHIRO OTOMO'S

AKIRA



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I love um

I buy um

I preserve um